

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CD NO.

COUNTRY: Korea

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25X1 SUBJECT: South Koreans Imprisoned in Pyongyang

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1. SIN Tong-ki (申東起), director of the America-Korea Society, and former secretary of General Archer Lerch when he was military governor of South Korea, was arrested in Seoul in early July 1950 by the North Korean State Security Bureau. On 22 July he was sent to Pyongyang, where he was interrogated by five (unidentified) members of the Pyongyang State Security Bureau. After the interrogation, he was placed in a civilian house and forced to read Communist literature. In late August, because of his stubborn refusal to accept Communism, he was put into Pyongyang jail.
2. Late in September, the State Security Bureau personnel in charge of political prisoners in the jail where SIN was imprisoned became disturbed and excited and were unable to decide what to do with their charges. On 10 October, they released SIN and some other prisoners and gave them each a pair of canvas shoes and 5000 North Korean won. SIN returned to Seoul on 22 October.
3. At the date of his departure from the jail, the following important personages from Seoul were still in prison in Pyongyang:  
KIM Tong-yon (金東元), deputy chairman of the Republic of Korea National Assembly.
4. YOUNG Ch'im-se (明基世), an important member of the National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence.
5. YI Kwang-su (李光洙), a novelist and Korean independence leader.
6. A large number of political prisoners from So Tae Kun Prison in Seoul arrived in Pyongyang on 7 October.\*

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